

MEDIA RELEASE



**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
October 12, 2006**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
Western District of Kentucky**

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**OWENSBORO METH MANUFACTURER SENTENCED
ON METHAMPHETAMINE CHARGES**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **KENNETH KESSINGER**, age 48, of 3424 South Daviess Street, Owensboro, Kentucky, in Daviess County, **was sentenced** in United States District Court, Owensboro, Kentucky, for conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine, conspiracy to possess and possession of ephedrine/pseudoephedrine and the equipment and materials used to manufacture methamphetamine with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine, and attempting to manufacture methamphetamine.

Joseph H. McKinley, Jr., Judge, United States District Court, sentenced **Kessinger** to 10 years imprisonment, plus 5 years supervised release following incarceration. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.**

Kessinger pled guilty and admitted that from July 2004, until on or about September 30, 2004, he conspired with and aided and abetted others to knowingly and intentionally manufacture fifty grams or more of methamphetamine, and to knowingly and intentionally possess pseudoephedrine and the equipment and chemicals to be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

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Kessinger also admitted that on December 4, 2005, he attempted to knowingly and intentionally manufacture fifty grams or more of methamphetamine and possessed the pseudoephedrine and the equipment and chemicals for that purpose. The street value of the methamphetamine was approximately \$11,000.

Dennis Cartwright and **Vanessa Jennings**, two of **Kessinger's** co-conspirators who were previously sentenced to 12 years and 7 months and 7 years, respectively, after their pleas of guilty, were arrested on September 30, 2004, after their car was stopped by the Kentucky State Police, and more than 5,000 pseudoephedrine tablets were found concealed behind a headlight of the car. Also in the car were numerous items used in the manufacture of methamphetamine. Additional investigation showed that over the period from July 2004 until their arrest, **Cartwright and Jennings** had made several trips to the Atlanta, Georgia, area to purchase pseudoephedrine for the manufacture of methamphetamine with a street value of more than \$5,000.00.

On December 4, 2005, **Kessinger** was arrested by the Owensboro Police Department at a residence in Owensboro in possession of a small amount of methamphetamine, along with several ounces of pseudoephedrine and other materials used to manufacture methamphetamine.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Philip C. Chance and was investigated by the Kentucky State Police and the Owensboro Police Department.

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